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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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S-E-C-R-E-T

25X1

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	25X1
SUBJECT	Production of Explosives in East Germany	DATE DISTR.	13 April 1955
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. As of mid-1955, Schoenebeck is to have completed a so-called nitropenta installation. The explosive which is to be manufactured with this is not only highly explosive but extremely explosive. Because of its ability to penetrate in depth it can be used for piercing the heaviest armor plate and is similar to the explosives used in the manufacture of the Panzerfaust. 25X1

2. Rocket fuel is also manufactured in the explosive plants in East Germany. A sore point in the production of explosives are the ferrosilicon "columns" of the sulfuric acid cookers. The NAGEMA works in Grimma has the facilities to cast ferrosilicon alloys. This alloy contains 18% silicon and is so hard and brittle that it can be worked only by abrasion. Also, the alloy is so sensitive to temperature changes, that a sudden change from sunny weather to a thunderstorm may crack 80% of the finished columns standing in the yard. 25X1

Comment: in operation, when the columns are at a temperature of 350° C, they are even more fragile and that the slightest touch of cold water can cause great damage. 25X1

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STATE		ARMY EV	X	NAVY	X	AIR	X	FBI		AEC		OSI	EV		

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